

Remarks

Preliminary Matters

No claims have been added. No additional fees are required. If determined otherwise, the Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-1077 for the amount.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants and Assignee appreciate the allowance of Claims 23, 28-31, and 34-38 and the conditional allowability of Claims 32 and 33.

To render moot any § 103 rejection, Applicants and Assignee have cancelled Claim 21, inserted the text from Claim 21 into Claim 23, and placed all Claims previously dependent on Claim 21 to be dependent on allowed Claim 23.

For the record, the change in text in Claim 23 is not "a reason related to patentability" because the Office has considered the scope of Claim 23 as allowable subject matter without amendment.

For the record, Applicants and Assignee also assert that the re-designation of dependence from Claim 21 to Claim 23 is not "a reason related to patentability" because such subject matter now dependent from Claim 23 initially would also have been allowable subject matter without amendment. The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance confirms this assertion.

Finally, the cancellation of the subject matter of Claim 21 is made without prejudice to the filing of a continuing application directed to such subject matter.

Applicant and his Assignee request a Notice of Allowance for all pending Claims 22-38, of which Claims 22-27 are product claims and Claims 28-38 are process claims.

09/913,613
Vortkort et al.
GAU: 1713 (W. Cheung)

If there are any matters that prevent a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Date

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